GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2040
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000
BENEFITS OF PDS TO BPL PEOPLE
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;YOGI ADITYANATH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries of Below Poverty Line people under the Public Distribution System during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the year-wise quantity of food items and the extent of subsidy provided by the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some strict measures ensuring that benefits of PDS are available only for the people living below poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) As per reports received from the State Governments/UT Administrations, the total number of BPL card holders in the country during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were 715.18 lakhs and 719.65 lakhs respectively.

(b) Year-wise Allocation of food items and subsidy provided during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as under :-

Foodgrains

Year	Allocation of foodgrains (in `000 tonnes)			Consumer Subsidy (Rs. in crore)
	BPL	APL + Addl.	Total	
1998-99	7116.51	15560.296	22676.806	6024.02
1999-2000	7206.294	16693.671	23899.965	5593.15

Sugar (October to September)

Year	Allocation (in lakh tonnes)	Consumer Subsidy (Rs. in crore)
1998-99	45.30	400.00
1999-2000 (till July, 2000)	39.89	235.00

(c) & (d) : Yes, Sir. A series of measures have been taken by Government of India to ensure that people living below poverty line actually get the benefit of PDS.

State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shop(FPS) and other levels to curb diversion and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in implementation of PDS.They have been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards. The State Governments have also been advised to initiate actionagainst erring FPS owners under Essential Commodities Act, 1955. A model Citizens` Charter for PDS has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption in order that there is transparency and accountability in the system so that PDS commodities reach the targetedbeneficiaries efficiently. The Government of India has also appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of PDS including complaints of diversion.